

Warré Hive Plans – Build Your Own – It's Easy!

Warré hives are topbar beehives with vertically stacked hive boxes. I wanted to build topbar hives that were Langstroth-compatible. I could not find good Warré hive plans on the Web that:

- 1) use readily available standard planed & sanded boards; and,
- 2) include hive boxes that are cross-compatible with Langstroth frames.

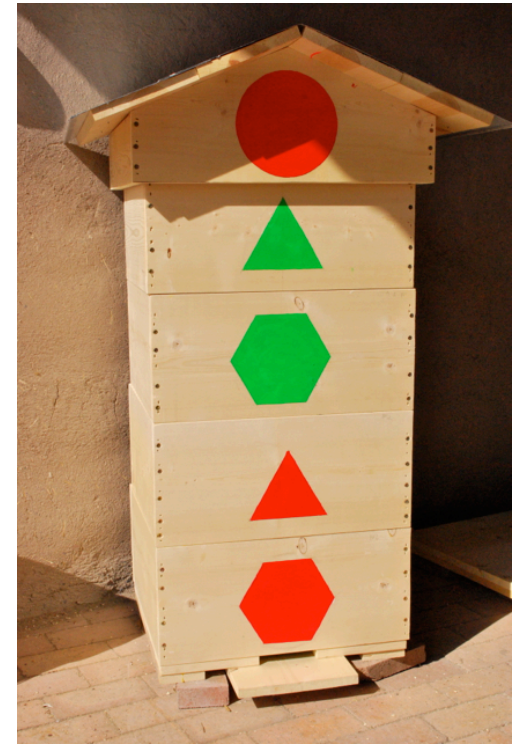
I adapted plans that I found on the Web. My plans are provided here. Check the actual dimensions of boards available to you!!!

I built starter Warré hives that include two hive boxes using pine boards purchased at Lowe's (actual dimensions of the boards in parentheses):

- a) Three 1" x 10" x 8' boards ($\frac{3}{4}$ " x $9 \frac{3}{16}$ ")
- b) One 1" x 8" x 8' board ($\frac{3}{4}$ " x $7 \frac{3}{16}$ ")
- c) One 1" x 6" x 8' board ($\frac{3}{4}$ " x $5 \frac{1}{2}$ ")
- d) One 1" x 4" x 8' board ($\frac{3}{4}$ " x $3 \frac{7}{16}$ ")

The ends of boards were trimmed to make them square & to adjust all lengths at both ends for the losses from saw cuts!

Boards were cut with a hand-held reciprocating saw. Rabbets in the inner top edges of the side walls of hive boxes were cut with a table saw. Boxes were assembled with wood glue, a nail gun and a few screws. The bottom of the quilt box was covered with burlap. Standard Langstroth topbars without frames can be used. With Warré hives, boxes are added from below. A new hive box can be built with one 1" x 10" x 8' board. Wooden dowel pegs & matching holes can be added to the top and bottom edges, respectively, of boxes and floor assembly for lateral stability.



Three 1" x 10" x 8' pine or cedar boards

Floor Board 1 19 ½	Floor Board 2 19 ½	Floor Board Cross Piece 21 ¾	Hive Box Side Wall 17	Hive Box Side Wall 17
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Hive Box Front Wall 19 ¾	Hive Box Back Wall 19 ¾	Roof Assembly Front Wall 21 ¾	Roof Assembly Back Wall 21 ¾	
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Hive Box Front Wall 19 ¾	Hive Box Back Wall 19 ¾	Hive Box Side Wall 17	Hive Box Side Wall 17	
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One 1" x 8" x 8' pine or cedar board

Roof Board 24	Roof Board 24	Roof Board 24	Roof Board 24
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One 1" x 6" x 8' pine or cedar board

Roof Assembly Side Wall 19	Roof Assembly Side Wall 19	Use excess to make side supports underlying the Floor Assembly running parallel to the Floor Board Cross Piece
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One 1" x 4" x 8' pine or cedar board

Quilt Box Front 19 ¾	Quilt Box Back 19 ¾	Quilt Box Side 17	Quilt Box Side 17	Use excess to make side handles
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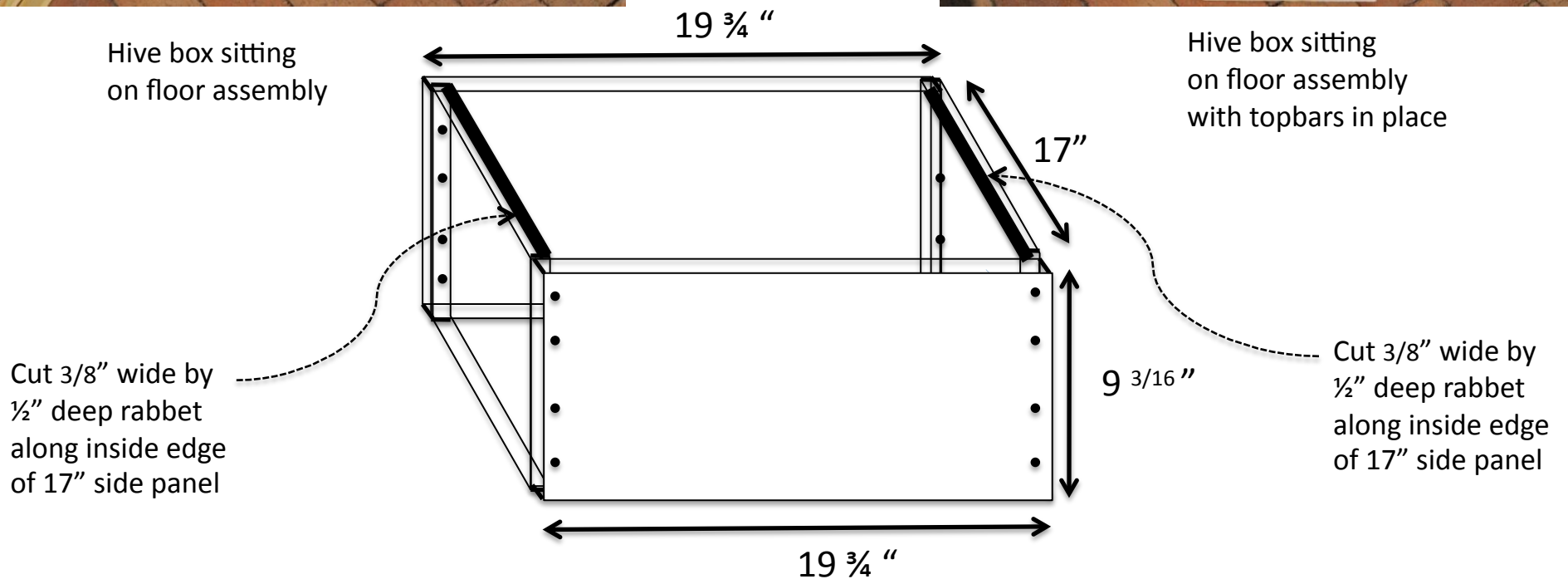
Hive Box



Hive box sitting
on floor assembly



Hive box sitting
on floor assembly
with topbars in place

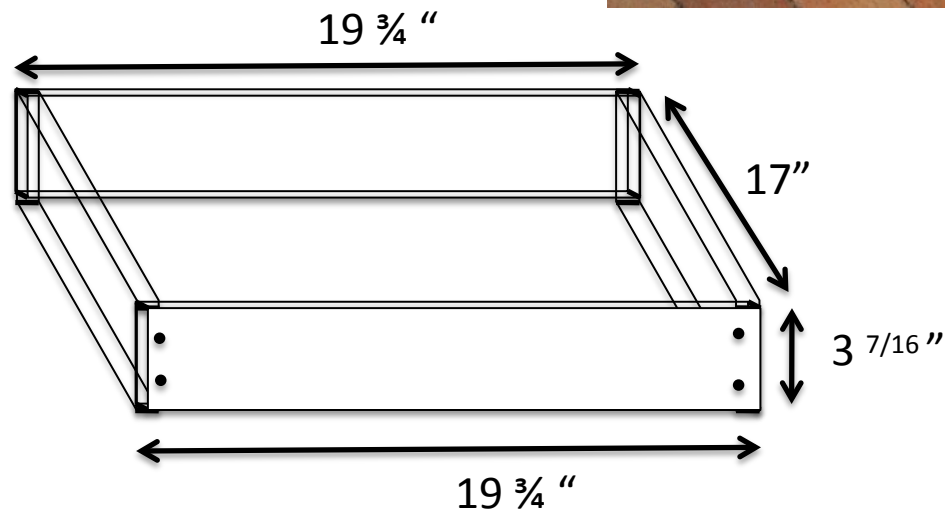


From a 9 $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick board, cut two 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " panels for the front & back and two 17" panels for the sides. Cut $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide by $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep rabbets on the inside edges of the tops of the 17" side panels to accommodate the top bars. Nail the ends of the side panels to the sides of the front & back panels. Secure with a few screws.

Quilt Box

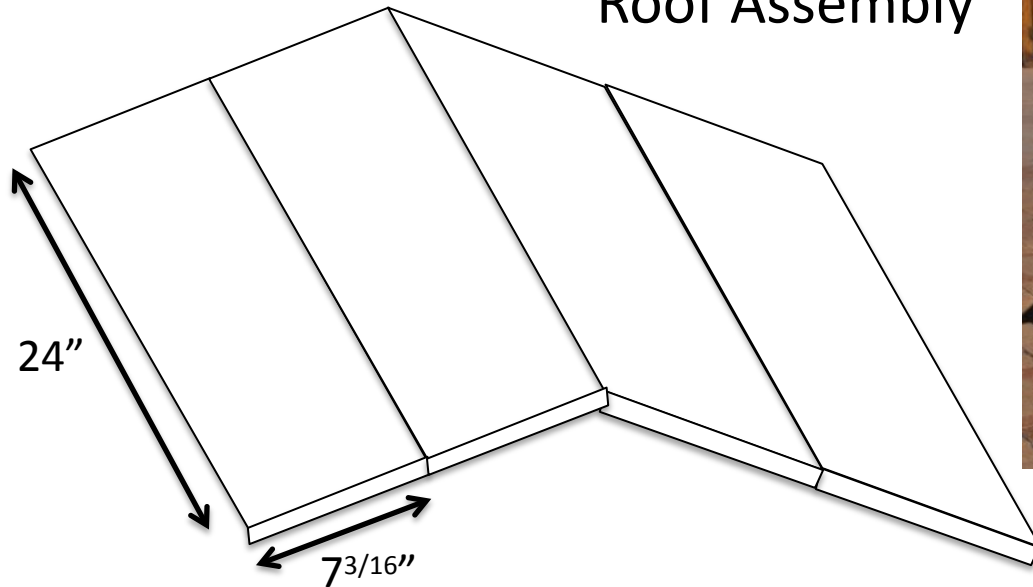


Quilt box sitting
on a hive box



From a $3 \frac{7}{16}$ " wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick board, cut two $19 \frac{3}{4}$ " panels for the front & back and two 17" panels for the sides. Nail the ends of the side panels to the sides of the front & back panels. Secure with a few screws. Staple a piece of fabric to the bottom of the frame.

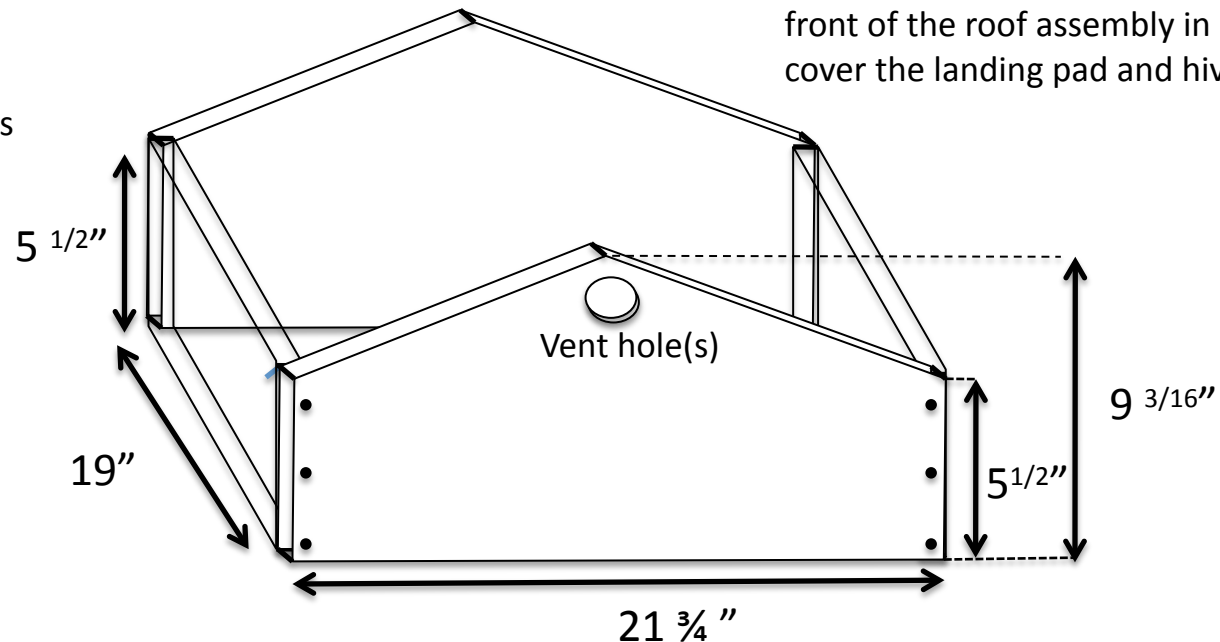
Roof Assembly



I used some surplus metal ridge flashing secured with roofing screws to cover the roof planks

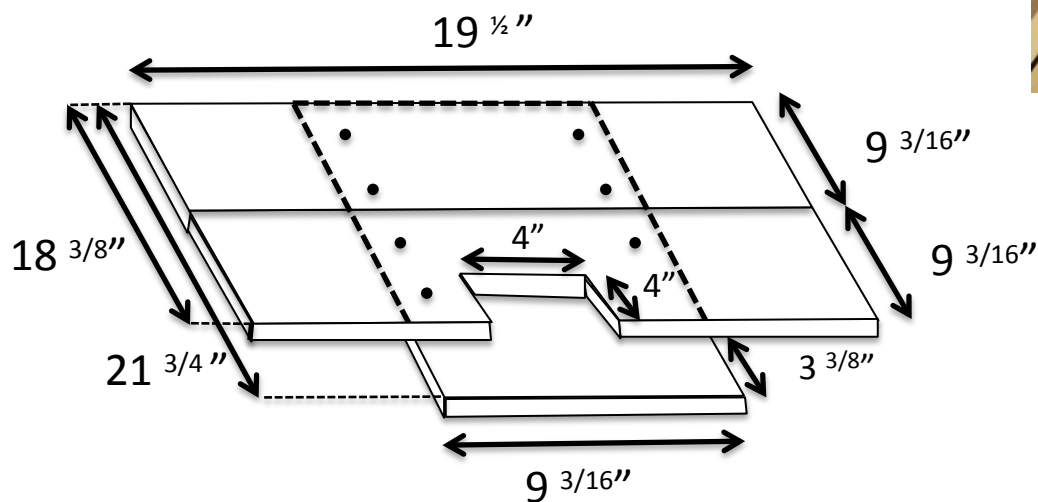


Roof assembly fitting completely over the quilt box and the top of the hive box. Extend the roof boards farther over the front of the roof assembly in order to cover the landing pad and hive entrance.



From a 9 3/16" wide by 3/4" thick board, cut two gable ends as shown. From a 5 1/2" wide board, cut two 19" side panels. Nail the ends of the side panels to the sides of the gable ends. Cover roof with four 24" x 7 3/16" boards & roofing material.

Floor Assembly



Floor assembly with 4" x 4" entrance cutout in front floor panel with underlying landing platform. The floor assembly is made up of two floor panels fixed to a perpendicularly-running panel that forms the landing platform. In this example, two additional boards are fixed to the underside of the floor boards to increase the strength of the floor assembly.

From a $9 \frac{3}{16}$ " wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick board, cut two $19 \frac{1}{2}$ " floor panels. In one of the floor panels, cut a 4" x 4" entrance as shown. From a $9 \frac{3}{16}$ " wide by $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick board, cut one $21 \frac{3}{4}$ " panel. Nail this panel perpendicular to the two floor panels with $3 \frac{3}{8}$ " extending out at the end with the entrance. Attach boards on either side of the bottom as desired to increase strength (can be cut from the excess that remains of the 1" x 6" x 8' board).